

PLAYING IN POLITICS TOWARDS THE BETTER EDUCATION POLICY IN INDONESIA

Keterlibatan dalam Politik menuju Kebijakan Pendidikan yang Lebih Baik di Indonesia

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Abstrak

Emily Durkheim menyimpulkan bahwa pendidikan dapat direformasi hanya jika masyarakat itu sendiri di reformasi. Ia berpendapat bahwa pendidikan adalah satu-satunya citra dan refleksi dari masyarakat. Saat ini orang-orang hanya fokus pada teori daripada praktek dalam sistem pendidikan. Bahkan pendidikan saat ini tidak dapat dipisahkan dengan politik. Politik memainkan peranan penting menuju sistem pendidikan yang lebih baik. Isu mengenai Menteri Pendidikan yang baru dan penggantian Menteri sebelumnya juga mempengaruhi kebijakan dalam sistem kurikulum. Indonesia memiliki sistem pendidikan terbesar keempat di dunia, namun dalam sebuah laporan pendidikan terkemuka menyatakan dari 50 negara Indonesia berada di peringkat terakhir. Keberhasilan masyarakat dan negara di masa depan bergantung pada pemuda masa kini dan pendidikan yang di akses. Pendidikan merupakan hal terpenting dimanapun bahkan di masyarakat termiskin di dunia. Banyak stigma yang menyatakan bahwa politik dapat memberi dan menguntungkan atau mungkin merugikan bagi sistem pendidikan di Indonesia.

Kata Kunci: Pendidikan, Politik, Kementerian Pendidikan, Masyarakat, Stigma

Abstract

Emily Durkheim concluded that education could be reform only if society itself is reformed. He argued that education is the only image and reflection of society. Right now people just focus on the theory rather than practice in the education system. Even education right now cannot separated with the politics. Politics play an important rule towards the better education system. The issue about the new minister of education and the withdrawal of the previous minister influence their policy also in the curriculum system. Indonesia has the fourth largest education system in the world yet in a landmark education report of 50 nations Indonesia ranked last. The future success of communities and thus nations depends on today's youth and the education they access. Nowhere is education more important than in the world's poorest communities. A lot of stigma that playing politics can give and advantage of maybe disadvantage for the education system in Indonesia.

Keywords: Education, Politics, Ministry of Education, Communities, Stigma

INTRODUCTION

Many people cannot get an access until university because of financial issue that is why in Indonesia the policy for free education is still far away from the reality. Many people cannot get access to education, in 2015 2,5 million children stop their education based on UNICEF data. The reality is only for people who have a lot of money can get an access to the better facility. Even in some village, their school is already broken and is not good enough to be call as school. In rural areas, they spend a lot of times to go to school because no good infrastructure can support them and in some areas even the school is so far away from their house because the limited number of school and the teacher also limited.

Indonesia system of education quite same with other country, you need to pass the playground, elementary school for six years and junior and senior high school for 6 six years also after that mostly 4 years to complete the bachelor degree studies. The subject, which the teacher teach us when we start our school such as Math, Biology, Physics and any other natural sciences. The teacher is the one lead us for every decision in our school life. As the country in fourth position of the biggest number of population in the world, Indonesia recently change their curriculum system. They change to follow the characteristic for Indonesian students itself.

With roughly 55 million students, 3 million teachers and more than 236,000 schools in 500 districts, Indonesia has the world's fourth-largest education system. But the system does not work nearly as well as it should. Many people cannot get the access of the education because of the financial factors and some school in the rural area is still underdeveloped. The facilities in urban area are much better than in rural area.

Education and politics are the two different term in a state but they are mostly the two important parts which influence the development of a state so well. As we know that all the education policy well created by the government and play the politics role in this area. Many critics said that they hope that politics will not come inside and influence the education system because the purpose of education only to give knowledge for all people.

The group of oppressed society and as the victim of social imperialism tend to separate the education and politics so they can protect the identity of their community. That is what happen in the traditional education system in Indonesia, especially

pesantren (Boarding School). Under pressure the groups and minority religion, some of the government obey their demands while the others imposing uniformity of the education system in the hope of eliminating the danger of social discord. The government of Indonesia give the chance to some ethnic group and religion for build their own education school like Arab school, Chinese school, Christian school, Islamic school, Buddhist school and Hindu's school. As the government understood that as world largest ethnic group in the world and as a country which believe to God and all religion, many ethnic and religious group want to build the education system based on their religion principle and the government support that as long as it is still follow the ideology of Indonesia and follow the education regulation system in Indonesia.

We can see that government also trying hard to prove their existence in the education sector, the regulation about education in 1945 constitution article 31 paragraph 1 explain that every person have the rights to get education, article (2) that the government try and create national teaching system which based on the constitution. From this explanation above the government give an instruction that they have responsibility for guarantee all the citizens get the better education system, other than that the government also have responsibility to organize the national teaching system. The government concern in education also show in the allocation of funds for education from state budget, this prove seriousness of the government to guarantee every people got the decent education. However, unfortunately not all people think that education is the way to achieve welfare. Moreover, the government also not make sure that the correct allocation of the funds.

The goal of this analytic research is to pave the way for conditional assistance based on an objective diagnosis of the current situation and needs, to help the government and other stakeholders to formulate a strategy for the future development of education system in Indonesia. This research is to answer the research question about the important of decision making process to produce the good policy in the education system and how the political impact that influence any decision about the education system in Indonesia.

This research intends to explain why we cannot separate the impact of political system for the better education in Indonesia. What is the important of the politics for the society to understand that political education also important to make our young

generation understand that to change something you must be a part of the system and take control the decision making process.

METHODS

The intended research method would be two fold namely qualitative and case studies method. The reason use qualitative approach is to make sure the main research problem would be ascertained. The main research problem here is to explain the impact of politics in education policy system. The principal reason for selection of the case study method was to address the complexity associated with the impact on political existence in Indonesia in relation with the curriculum and learning process in school. To address the barriers factors for the better education system and in this research the author propose the new model for the education system and how to improve the system for the better towards students and here the politics can play their role.

The research problem will be also answered by collecting data, interviews, content of analysis documents, this will try to focus on understanding and explaining the meaning of a social phenomenon, happening inside the country, particularly in education rights. The methodology the author use also to analyze the impact for the bad influence of politics towards the future of our young generation because of the bad system of education. Finally by analyzing all collected data, summarize and prepare the crucial recommendation and contributing the main points to improve our education system by the good policies of government.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Public Policy towards Education

Education policies has been born in Europe or even United States in the early of democracy ideology become famous around the world. It is impossible if it can be developed without the intelligent members inside within the government or even the stakeholders. If we are talking about intelligent members, we cannot forget about education because they are connected each other. That is why education play important role here for the development of Indonesia. Education directly or indirectly influenced by politics because the policy and regulation of education system is created by the people in powers and the decision-making process for create one policy need a lot of political effort to achieve that. Money politics or not will give an impact for young

generation who spend lot of time in school and make their dream comes true in the future.

Politics and education actually always link with each other for example a vocational school principal who decides policies on patterns of internships for their students whether the decision is political decision or not still under discussion. Another example is the regulations about education that the government decides whether policy or guideline is actually a political decision as well. This happen really have a reason because the policy of education must be discuss so well to the legislative or executive institution. We still remember how the Act No. 20 of 2003 on the national education system delayed its adoption for a long time simply because there is one lesson that debate.

Speaking about the relevance of education and politics, in schools of formal education policies have been defined from the center government despite widespread implement educational autonomy that is why only the center government have the authority to change that regulation.

Yet as political as education issues can be, teachers, charged with ultimate execution of new policies, often refrain from viewing themselves as political actors. Even as some members of the profession rage against tests, or certain teacher-evaluation proposals, or any number of other policies, many do not want the “political” label. As teachers be the most important people in education system, can teacher be separated with the influence of politics? It will be difficult to answer even it is really clear that teacher cannot influence their student to follow some parties or some actors inside, it will be a negative campaign to attract followers but the government cannot always control what happen in the class. If the students become bad we can say the teacher also take responsibility for this matter but how about politics, it is so easy to influence the teacher because they are close also with the students.

Teacher want to tell legislators what’s going on, they want legislators to visit their classrooms, they want people to help them have the tools and conditions they need to do their job but curriculum is political. Standards are political, testing is political, funding is political and education is political. Politic is the foundation for creating the policy in any other aspect such as economic, social, law, culture, security and defense so it will have no difference with the education aspect because the decision making process is in the

central government that is why our system of education is still related for how bad and good the policy towards the better education for all the citizens in Indonesia.

In Indonesia the government also put a lot of effort to eradicate the problem of education, the government put the effort in the policy towards education for example implementation of the nation's culture and education's character, improving the professional of the teacher, curriculum renewal and the implementation of SM3T (Bachelor Educate Underdeveloped Regions, Innermost and Outermost).

Government try hard to mobilize with the society will for the better education system, that why like change the curriculum or maybe the withdrawal of our ministry of education really looks like politics influence the education reformation in Indonesia. We just want that government mission to provide our young generation with best system to help them in the job field in the future without any further interest but it looks like the government need to put a lot of effort for the development of our education system.

In 2005, Indonesia implemented the teacher law to improve the quality of its teachers. Under the new law, teachers must obtain certification by completing a 4-year college degree and continue to improve their skills, a program is supporting the government to implement the teacher quality management reform as mandated by the Teacher Law. To improve education quality in Indonesia, in 2005 the government passed the Teacher Law, a comprehensive bill designed to raise the quality of teachers. This make a good improvement for the better education system because teacher play an important role to develop the skill of the students and how they can change people mindset is based on the method of teacher teaching. The quality of the teacher is one of the important issue regarding the education system because teacher are the tool for us to learn a knowledge because if the teacher are bad the students will be bad also, if the students are good and smart definitely the students will be same as well.

A new World Bank Group report, entitled "Teacher Reform in Indonesia: The Role of Politics and Evidence in Policy Making", assesses the impact of the Teacher Law and its reforms, on teacher knowledge, skills, and motivations. Equally importantly, the study looks at student learning outcomes. It also explores the bill's impact on the financing of education, and on the distribution of teachers throughout Indonesia.

There are a lot of regulation which give a big impacts for the society and show how politics play their important role for the education, such policies are:

- a. Law 23 of 2003 on the Constitutional Court. Over the years, the Constitutional Court has developed into a highly respected and trusted institution and has become the “legislature of last resort” where civil society has the opportunity to defend its rights by requesting the court to change, revoke, or change the interpretation of legislation passed by the House of Representatives. With regard to the education sector, the Constitutional Court has issued important rulings on at least three occasions. These were related to the government’s obligation to allocate 20% of the national budget to education, the status of public universities and the provision of education by community-based organization.
- b. Law 14 of 2005 on Teachers and Lecturers. This law increased the minimum teacher academic qualification from D2 (two years education after completion of senior secondary education) to an academic bachelor’s degree (S1) or D4, a four-year diploma. It also requires teachers to have successfully completed the certification process and that all teachers must meet this requirement by 2015. Further, the law sets minimum competency standards in the areas of professionalism, pedagogy, social skills and personal behavior. The law not only specifies what teachers should be able to do and how to behave, but also addresses the issue of teacher welfare by introducing a set of new professional allowances for teachers who have successfully completed the teacher certification process and for those who work in remote areas.
- c. The Law on National Education (No.20/2003) and the Constitution Amendment III emphasize that the government has an obligation to finance basic education without charging fees, and that the government is mandated to allocate 20% of its expenditure on education. The Teacher Law (No. 14/2005) introduced important changes to the employment conditions and requirements for the certification of teachers, aiming at improving education quality. The Ministry of Education’s strategic plans for the periods 2005-2009 and 2010-2014 have consistently focused on three main pillars: 1) increasing access to education; 2) improving the quality of teaching and learning; and 3) strengthening governance, management and accountability.
- d. In 2005, the government launched a massive school operations grant programmer, the School Operational Assistance (Bantuan Operasional Sekolah/BOS), as a way of

injecting funds directly into schools to keep children in school and give schools some flexibility in managing their own funds.

With these regulation, the government make a lot of improvement regarding their education law, this is only some of the example that the government put their position as the people in powers that they can make an improvement or maybe they also can be the one that make education system in Indonesia are bad. People tend to think that not all people get the impact of these kind of regulation still a lot of problem about our education system such as the quality of the teacher, the income of the teacher that not balance for some region and teacher not get anything they deserved, a broken school, an expensive uniform and book and many more. It is true that it is essay to create a rule but it is also difficult to maintain in and how they make sure that all people deserve the same and people in any other province that far away from the capital will get the same especially they live in some village that far away from the city.

This is also proof that the policies always need the influence of the politics but not for the actors for example teacher must not involve for the decision-making process because their job is not there and they must not get influences by some actors whom only to take advantage for the students to get vote for their campaign. Teacher must know well their position not to take a part for any political campaign because if they are taking part of any activities which are not have related with their first role as to teach people and share the knowledge it will give the bad influence for the student and the system also. We know that student always follow the teacher command so if the teacher uses that is as the weapon to ask them to be the followers for any particular party or people it will give the big advantage for the bad politician.

The Model for Better Education System of Indonesia

Politics can be a tool to access a better education system because all the policy that education need to get a better education, education system must get approval from the government. These are the model the author want to propose and how politics can play their role here.

1. Focus on Subject

The meaning of this model that teacher will not force everybody to have the best score for every subject they are not passion about because it will give them lack of confidence in the future. I give example in my university I have one friend who are so passionate about art and music and he has a talent to do that that is why he always not come to every class and he only come to the class he enjoyed. Meanwhile he focused on his dream and after that he has a chance to do recording and now he is the best musician in Indonesia. This example teach us that the meaning of success is different to every people because success can be that we do something we like and we enjoy it not only about money and prestige anymore. Another example of this method actually the teacher can improve any skill from all the students. For example in my previous subject when I was in the school the English teacher know that some people good at photography and very good to make a movie. The teacher know the student potential so in his class he make one project that every class must make a short movie with the term of “school” and upload it in YouTube and which group get the most viewers and subscribe in YouTube will be the winner and get certificate and also to increase their score in English subject. The idea is the language of the movie will be in English so it is also teach them how to make scenario in English and practice their English in everyday conversation. It will give the chance from some students who are good to make a movie can have their official project and everybody love it, this kind of project will improve all our skill. This can put arts as the subject and increase the chance for student to perform arts and any kind of extracurricular activities besides Math, Physics, and Chemistry etc.

The politics can be play an important role here to make a policy that the national exam in all the main subject such as Math, physics, chemistry, English and Indonesia is not the obligation and the only measurement for graduate of school. There are a lot of criticism against this idea that 3 years of student life only depend on one day of national exam that is why not all the stupid students are the one become a victim for not graduate but also the smart students because they must suffer for this policy.

2. Moral Subject

I think the best model for Indonesian students is norm or religion perspective. I am so confident about this model because I have several reasons for this model to be apply. First, Indonesia with 80% more are Muslim and as the largest Muslim democracy

state in the world, all of the citizens believe in a God. Even we are from Islam, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu but we believe that every religion have their own God. I believe that the important of education is not only that we understand Math, Biology and Physics but how to build our characteristic when we were a child. Depend on the identity of Indonesian people that they follow their religion principle it is important to teach them how to act towards each other. Education is not only about academics, that is true academics is important but the relation with each other it is important also. The networking will help you in your future goals, you will need a networking to build up your network and communicate each other to every job you will get later. Second, throughout its history, throughout the world, education is essentially has two objectives such as helping people to be intelligent and smart and help them become better human beings (good). Making intelligent and clever man may be easy to do, but it makes people to be kind and wise, it seems much more difficult or even very difficult. Thus, it is fair to say that the moral problem will be the main cause of every problem that everybody faces.

3. Practice Learning

The reason the author want to give advice to create this model because as we know as a country with being known as agriculture country we need to develop this sector and any other sector also for example fishery and forestry. For example, forestry project initiate in Sweden, the aim of this project is to provide shift workers in the forestry industry with upper secondary level education in the core subjects of mathematics, chemistry, physics, Swedish and English. Tuition is carried out mainly through distance education and with the support of supervisors and new technology such as computers and interactive video. Education takes place mainly outside working hours, but in close proximity to learner's homes or workplaces.

University has the faculty of agriculture and fishery but it's more like theory subject they are lack of practice. The lecture must give them a chance to use their skill to try to develop the entrepreneurship skill for all the students so they can develop this sector more in the future. For example, in Ternate, north Maluku province. Actually we have free land for open up the agriculture business but mostly a young generation do not have an interest in this sector even the profit will be so good. We have the natural resource but the problem of Indonesia why we still developing right now that we are

lack of good human resources and we did not use technology for the good things. Like many students from senior high school in Ternate that the author interview they all answer that they want to be the doctor and they never think to take agriculture or fishery major because it will not give them any good job in the future and it is only the jobs for poor people that is why we need to make more effort to promote this sector so many people take advantage for our natural resources.

4. No Force Lecture

In this method we can learn from Finland method, that is we know that Finland as one of the country with best education system. In Finland, there are only teachers with the best quality at the best training anyway. The teaching profession itself is a profession that is very much appreciated, even though their wages are not fantastic. Best secondary school graduates usually just sign up for admission in schools of education, and only 1 of 7 applicants can be accepted. For my opinion, this kind of system really suits the best for the mentality of Indonesian people. We hear the news of student's suicide because he failed in the exam to many times and the bribe case for the national exam because if we are talking about Indonesian system, which is, not focuses on the process but focus on the result such as national exam. You will not graduate from school if you failed the national exam which is only or 6 subject such as Math, Indonesian language, English, Physics, Biology, Math, that is why we cannot say students who are stupid are the one who did not pass the exam because how about they are just nervous and feeling not well in the national exam, do teacher will not consider their ability in the whole 3 years and just consider the national exam which is only 3 days. That is why I also think that exam is not always good.

5. Teacher Training Program

Teacher is one of the important element if we want to improve our education system, the good teacher will produce the good students. Everybody agree with that, that is why teacher have a moral jobs to share their knowledge and build up the character of the students. They should be evaluated not only on how many hours a week they teach, but on how well their students perform. Almost certainly, teachers need better training. Of more than 400 teacher-training institutes in Indonesia, Mr Anies Baswedan (Previous Minister of Education in Indonesia) reckons that no more than a tenth is much good.

The minister also wants to improve Indonesia's vocational-training institutes, particularly those in agriculture and fisheries, as a way both to boost the country's skilled-manufacturing workforce and to help those in rural areas dependent on farming and the sea.

CONCLUSION

As Nelson Mandela quote "Education is the best weapon to change the world" it's show that education is really the important aspect that can change everybody life. People who live in developing country still face a lot of problem regarding the system of education like Indonesia. The problem such as the access of education, the number of teachers who have not been evenly distribute, as well as the quality of teachers themselves is insufficient and lack of access to education in Indonesia especially in rural area.

Education cannot be separated with politics but it must be not give a bad impact for the education system itself because of the interest of some actors and they want to take part in the policymaking and it will influence the future of our young generation. We do believe that education and politics have their own role to apply the policy for the development of a country.

Education reform needs to be driven by educators and researchers who have lived, practiced, and considered carefully what the goals of education should be for a free people, what the hurdles are for improving educational outcomes for all children (hurdles that are powerfully influenced by the lives of children beyond the walls of school) and how to foster a culture that supports and embraces that system.

Education is the most important aspect to the developing of a country. It is important through a world but the system remain that not every country did the same and indeed some countries are better with another. Indonesia as the fourth biggest number of population in the world and the number of unemployment rate in Indonesia is so high. Education is the only chance to improve the quality of human resources in Indonesia so they can compete in this globalization era.

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